

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 8, and 9 are presently amended and new claim 10 has been introduced into the application. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

In response to the Examiner's objections to the specification, the specification has been amended to remove the cited references to the claims. The abstract has also been amended to correct the cited typographical error.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-5 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zeiler et al. US 6,301,790. The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered. In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that "the saw assembly (12) is capable of automatically being substantially or fully decoupled from handling forces which act on the saw blade." The force-dependent coupling (70) for the handle (66) in Zeiler et al. does not allow for complete (full) decoupling of the handle from the housing (166). The coupling in Zeiler et al. is designed to allow the user to select between two or more *fixed* handle positions relative to the housing in order to facilitate the pushing or pulling of the saw during cutting. The saw disclosed in Zeiler et al. cannot protect the user from kick-back because the handle of the saw is fixed to the housing during use and cannot automatically uncouple the handle from the housing. Consequently, should kick-back occur, the handle will follow the uncontrolled motion imparted to the saw by the blade and potentially cause injury. Claim 1, as amended, recites that the saw assembly is capable of automatically being decoupled from handling forces which act on the saw blade.

Applicant argues that claim 1, as amended, and claims depending from claim 1, are therefore not anticipated by Zeiler et al. and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 6-9 accordingly and respectfully requests that these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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